



General Assembly

January Session, 2007

Raised Bill No. 7376

LCO No. 5507

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Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:
(PH)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTICUT HEALTH INFORMATION NETWORK.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2007*) (a) There is established at
2 The University of Connecticut Health Center a Connecticut Health
3 Information Network, whose responsibility shall be to securely
4 integrate state health and social services data, consistent with state and
5 federal privacy laws, within and across The University of Connecticut
6 Health Center, the Office of Health Care Access and the Departments
7 of Public Health, Mental Retardation and Children and Families. Data
8 from other state agencies may be integrated into the network as
9 funding permits and as permissible under federal law.

10 (b) The Center for Public Health and Health Policy at The
11 University of Connecticut Health Center, in collaboration with the
12 Departments of Information Technology, Public Health, Mental
13 Retardation, Children and Families and the Office of Health Care
14 Access shall be responsible for developing, implementing and
15 administering the Connecticut Health Information Network.

16 (c) The Connecticut Health Information Network shall develop a
17 framework for creating the Connecticut Community Health Data and
18 Information Portal, which shall be capable of providing (1) access to
19 public use datasets containing information maintained by state
20 agencies and other nongovernmental entities on the health of
21 Connecticut residents, and (2) a platform to query the network to
22 obtain aggregate data on key health indicators within the state. The
23 Connecticut Community Health Data and Information Portal shall be
24 designed to:

25 (A) Provide accurate, timely and accessible health data to public and
26 private sector leaders and policy makers at the state and local level,
27 and inform citizens to improve community and individual health;

28 (B) Adhere to strict confidentiality and privacy standards;

29 (C) Support efforts to reduce health disparities; and

30 (D) Identify the best available data sources and coordinate the
31 compilation of extant health-related data and statistics.

32 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2007*) (a) There shall be a
33 Connecticut Health Information Network Governing Board. The
34 governing board shall oversee the Connecticut Health Information
35 Network established under section 1 of this act.

36 (b) The governing board shall consist of the following members:

37 (1) One member appointed by the Governor, who shall serve as the
38 chairperson;

39 (2) One member who is a municipal public health director,
40 appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;

41 (3) One member who is a privacy advocate, appointed by the
42 president pro tempore of the Senate;

43 (4) One member who represents consumers, appointed by the

44 majority leader of the House of Representatives;

45 (5) One member who represents data users, appointed by the
46 minority leader of the House of Representatives;

47 (6) One member appointed by The University of Connecticut Health
48 Center; and

49 (7) One member each appointed by the Commissioners of Public
50 Health, Mental Retardation, Children and Families and Health Care
51 Access and the Chief Information Officer of the Department of
52 Information Technology, or their designees.

53 (c) All initial appointments to the board shall be made not later than
54 November 30, 2007. The term of each appointed governing board
55 member shall be four years or until a successor is chosen, whichever is
56 later. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.

57 (d) The chairperson shall schedule the first meeting of the board,
58 which shall be held not later than December 31, 2007.

59 (e) The governing board shall meet at least once during each
60 calendar quarter and at such other times as the chairperson deems
61 necessary. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum for the
62 transaction of business.

63 (f) The duties and responsibilities of the governing board shall be to:
64 (1) Establish and implement policies, procedures and protocols
65 governing access and dissemination of data through the Connecticut
66 Health Information Network; (2) establish such permanent and ad hoc
67 committees as it deems necessary to facilitate the implementation,
68 operation and maintenance of the network; (3) recommend any
69 legislation necessary for implementation, operation and maintenance
70 of the network; (4) perform all necessary functions to facilitate the
71 coordination and integration of the network; and (5) report annually to
72 the Governor and the General Assembly on the status and operations
73 of the Connecticut Health Information Network, including any

74 recommendations for funding.

75 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2007*) (a) Notwithstanding any
 76 provision of chapter 14, 164, 319, 319b, 319o, 319t, 319v or 368a of the
 77 general statutes, or any regulation adopted pursuant to said chapters,
 78 and subject to federal restrictions on disclosure or redisclosure of such
 79 information, the state agencies that participate in the Connecticut
 80 Health Information Network may disclose personally identifiable
 81 information held in agency databases to the administrator of the
 82 Connecticut Health Information Network and its subcontractors for
 83 the purposes of (1) network development and verification, and (2) data
 84 integration and aggregation to enable response to network queries
 85 approved by the commissioner of the department with primary
 86 responsibility for collecting or maintaining such information. Such
 87 approval shall not be denied unless disclosure of such personally
 88 identifiable information to the Connecticut Health Information
 89 Network would constitute a violation of federal law, including, but not
 90 limited to, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of
 91 1996 (HIPAA) and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of
 92 1974 (FERPA) and any regulations promulgated thereunder at 34 CFR
 93 Part 99.

94 (b) The Connecticut Health Information Network may use such
 95 personally identifiable information for the purposes of (1) matching
 96 data across or within participating agency databases, including
 97 selected health databases at The University of Connecticut Health
 98 Center, and (2) providing de-identified data in response to queries
 99 approved by the Connecticut Health Information Network Governing
 100 Board. The network may not redisclose such personally identifiable
 101 information, except when and as permitted by written agreements
 102 with state agencies or other network contributors that expressly
 103 authorize redisclosure of personally identifiable information, subject to
 104 all applicable state and federal laws. Neither the network nor any
 105 recipient of de-identified data from the network may redisclose de-
 106 identified or aggregate data in a manner that would permit re-

107 identification of such data or the identification of any individual to
108 whom such data pertains.

109 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2007*) (a) There is established a
110 State Consumer Health Information and Policy Advisory Council to
111 assist the Connecticut Health Information Network Governing Board
112 in developing the framework for the Connecticut Community Health
113 Data and Information Portal. The advisory council shall review
114 available health care information in Connecticut and shall recommend
115 improvements to agency health databases in order to facilitate public
116 access to health care information for the purposes of improving the
117 public health, informing public health policy and creating
118 transparency of consumer health care information. Such review shall
119 include an inventory of existing health data sources in the state, as well
120 as the procedures used to identify, collect, standardize, share and
121 coordinate health-related data.

122 (b) The State Consumer Health Information and Policy Advisory
123 Council shall consist of the following members:

124 (1) One member appointed by the Governor, who shall be an
125 employee of the executive office of the Governor;

126 (2) Seven members from private sector corporations based in
127 Connecticut that have expertise working with health care providers,
128 insurers, businesses and government to facilitate the use of health data
129 and information to improve the quality, efficiency and safety of health
130 care appointed as follows: (A) The Governor shall appoint one
131 member, who shall serve as chairperson, (B) the president pro tempore
132 of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives shall
133 each appoint one member, and (C) the majority and minority leaders
134 of the Senate and the House of Representatives shall each appoint one
135 member; and

136 (3) Five members representing other state and local agencies,
137 universities, local health councils, professional healthcare-related

138 associations, foundations, consumers and purchasers, all appointed by
139 the Governor.

140 (c) All initial appointments to the advisory council shall be made
141 not later than December 31, 2007. The term of each appointed advisory
142 council member shall be two years or until a successor is chosen,
143 whichever is later. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing
144 authority for the remainder of the term. A majority of members shall
145 constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Members shall not
146 be compensated for their services.

147 (d) The advisory council may create subcommittees as it deems
148 appropriate to further the purposes of the advisory council and shall
149 appoint the members of such subcommittees from among its members.

150 Sec. 5. (*Effective July 1, 2007*) The sum of two million five hundred
151 thousand dollars is appropriated to The University of Connecticut
152 Health Center, from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June
153 30, 2008, for the purpose of establishing and operating the Connecticut
154 Health Information Network established under section 1 of this act.

155 Sec. 6. (*Effective July 1, 2008*) The sum of two million five hundred
156 thousand dollars is appropriated to The University of Connecticut,
157 from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, for the
158 purpose of operating the Connecticut Health Information Network
159 established under section 1 of this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To establish a Connecticut Health Information Network for the purpose of integrating state health and social services data, consistent with state and federal privacy laws, within and across various state agencies.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]